

Chicago auction promises some topnotch dates

By Roger Boye

Scores of major rarities will go on the auction block late this week in what may prove to be the largest coin sale in Chicago's history.

Organizers of "Auction '85" predict that the 2,000 lots may bring in as much as \$10 million in winning bids. Included in the sale are some keepsakes that could fetch more than \$50,000 each.

"Auction '85" is the seventh consecutive summer sale conducted by four large firms, including the Rare Coin Company of America, Inc. [Rar-coa] in Chicago. This year's auction is the first of the seven to be held in Illinois.

Among the key dates are an uncirculated half cent of 1793, the coin's first year of issue; an 1876-CC [for Carson City, Nev.] 20-cent piece in choice, uncirculated condition; one of about 12 known 1870-S [for San Francisco] silver dollars; and a possibly unique 1907 Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold piece, proof, with Roman numerals and in ultrahigh relief.

All the rarities will be available for viewing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday in the Regency Ballroom A of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Dr. Auction sessions begin at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; the first session on Friday is Rar-coa's part of the auction.

Collectors who want to bid on lots or watch the proceedings can register in the Regency Ballroom before each session.

● Uncle Sam has begun selling uncut sheets of series 1985 \$1 bills bearing the printed signature of Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III.

The sheets are available in three sizes, with each bill from the Richmond Federal Reserve bank.

Prices are \$9.50 for a four-note uncut sheet, \$28 for 16 notes and \$47 for 32 notes. Buyers are asked to specify the series year desired.

To order, send a money order, cashier's check or certified check for the exact amount to Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Uncut Currency Sales Program, 14th and C Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20228. Allow at least 45 days for delivery.

● The British Royal Mint is selling to collectors a one-pound coin featuring the national emblem of Wales [an uprooted leek] and the restyled portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Each 1985-dated specimen contains about .28 of an ounce of silver and costs \$29.75; to place an order, call toll-free, [800] 221-1215.